UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,533	10/30/2003	Alfred T. Rundle	12078-194	7577

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EXAMINER
KRASNIC, BERNARD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/697,533	RUNDLE ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Bernard Krasnic	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _25 July 2007_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1 and 3-30_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1, 3-30_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1.   The Request for Continued Examination filed 7/25/2007 have been entered and made of record.

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 3-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

3.   Applicant's arguments filed 7/25/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant alleges, "III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102" in pages 14-16 and "IV REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103" in pages 16-19, and states respectively that the Ryan Jr. art reference does not disclose having a plurality of predetermined profiles where each profile consists of a plurality of profile image characteristics. However the Examiner disagrees because Ryan does teach a plurality of profiles (senders address field, recipient address field, etc.) where each profile consists of a plurality of profile image characteristics (name, street, county, state, zip code). The Applicant also states respectively that "claim selected characteristics in each profile determines a comparison subset that can be more thoughtfully arranged to reduce search time" whereas Ryan does no apparent sorting of criteria into subsets. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., arranged subset) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are

interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The Applicant also states respectively that Ryan does not state an action identifier configured to specify a plurality of actions. However the Examiner disagrees because Ryan teaches different actions such as sanitization/processing area (see col. 13, lines 13-17), a video coding terminal, or audio recognition (see col. 12, lines 54, col. 13, lines 29-31). The Applicant also states respectively that the step of comparing mail piece image characteristics with the plurality of predetermined profiles successively is not taught by the prior art. However the Examiner disagrees because Sansone does disclose that the mail piece image characteristics are compared with at least two threat indicator or predetermined profiles (senders address, recipients address, meter account, size, etc.) simultaneously to see if a match with at least two threat indicators could be determined (see paragraph [0041], paragraph [0042], lines 1-7). The art rejections will be further discussed below.

Claim Objections

4.   Claim 22 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 22, lines 8-9: "obtain at least one mail piece image characteristic" should be -- obtain mail piece image characteristics --. The Examiner believes this change is needed because the Applicant has made this type of amendment throughout the rest of the claims and might have missed this correction.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5.   Claims 6, 11, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed

invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 6, 11, and 22 are drawn to

functional descriptive material NOT claimed as residing on a computer readable

medium.   MPEP 2106.IV.B.1(a) (Functional Descriptive Material) states:

> "Data structures not claimed as embodied in a computer-readable medium are descriptive
> material per se and are not statutory because they are not capable of causing functional change in the
> computer."

> "Such claimed data structures do not define any structural or functional interrelationships between
> the data structure and other claimed aspects of the invention which permit the data structure's
> functionality to be realized."

Claims 6, 11, and 22, while defining "computer readable memory" or "computer

readable code", do not define a "computer-readable medium" and is thus non-statutory

for that reasons. A "computer readable memory" or "computer readable code" can

range from paper on which the program is written, to a program simply contemplated

and memorized by a person. The Examiner suggests amending the claim to embody

the program on "computer-readable medium" in order to make the claim statutory. For

example:

Claim 6, lines 17-19, "computer readable code embodied in the at least one

computer readable memory" should be -- computer readable medium encoded with

computer readable code --. Appropriate claim language corrections are then also

needed to fit this language.

Claim 11, lines 18-19: "at least one second memory having computer readable code embodied therein" should be -- at least one second computer readable medium encoded with computer readable code --. Appropriate claim language corrections are then also needed to fit this language.

Claim 22, lines 10-11: "computer readable code configured to retrieve" should be -- a computer readable medium encoded with computer readable code configured to retrieve --. Appropriate claim language corrections are then also needed to fit this language.

"In contrast, a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with the data structure defines structural and functional interrelationships between the data structure and the computer software and hardware components which permit the data structure's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory." - MPEP 2106.IV.B.1(a)

Claims 7-10, 20 and 28 are dependent upon claim 6.

Claims 12-18 and 21 are dependent upon claim 11.

Claims 23-27 are dependent upon claim 22.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7.   Claims 23 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being

indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

applicant regards as the invention.

Re Claim 23, line 3: The limitation "one of the plurality of action identified" lacks clear

antecedent basis.

Re Claim 30: The limitation "g)" in claim 30 interferes with the limitation "g)" in claim 1.

It is suggested to change the limitation letterings in claim 30.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by
> another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent
> granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the
> applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section
> 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States
> only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2)
> of such treaty in the English language.

9.   Claims 6, 8-9, 11, 13-15, 18 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by Ryan Jr. (US 7,071,437 B2, as applied in previous Office Action).

Re Claim 11: Ryan Jr. discloses a system enabling identification of mail pieces based

upon predetermined profiles (sender address, recipient address, etc.), the system

comprising a detector and optical elements (14, OCR scanner has detectors and optical

elements) configured to obtain an image of a mail piece (see Fig. 9a, col. 4, lines 40-42,

col. 5, lines 11-18); at least one processor (110) (see Fig. 1a, col. 4, lines 34-35)

configured to obtain mail piece image characteristics (the image characteristics for the

address components - name, street, county, state, and zip code) associated with the

image of the mail piece (see col. 5, lines 11-18); a first memory (22, 26, 108, 114) for

storing data for access by a process executed by at least one processor (see Fig. 9a,

col. 4, lines 46-48), said memory comprising: a) a database (22 and 26) storing data for

each one of a plurality of predetermined profiles (see Fig. 9a, col. 4, lines 46-48), the

data comprising: an identifier / divert if match found, values for a plurality of selected

profile image characteristics (the plurality of selected profile image characteristics for

the sender address profile are the sender name, sender street, sender county, sender

state, and sender zip code, similar for the recipient address), and, an action identifier /

divert (see col. 5, lines 20-65) configured to specify a plurality of actions / divert to

sanitization/processing area (see col. 13, lines 13-17), or divert to a video coding

terminal, or divert to an audio recognition (see col. 12, lines 54, col. 13, lines 29-31)

associated with each of said plurality of predetermined profiles; and, b) at least one

second memory (153) having computer readable code embodied therein (see Fig. 9a,

col. 12, lines 18-21), the computer readable code configured to cause the at least one

processor to: retrieve the data for one of the plurality of predetermined profiles / address

from the database (see Fig. 9a, Computer system 100 retrieves data from the address

database 22 or 26, col. 4, lines 46-48, col. 9, lines 25-32, col. 10, lines 63-68, col. 12,

lines 13-15), compare (S208) the mail piece image characteristics (address components
- name, street, county, state, and zip code) to the one of the plurality of predetermined
profiles (sender's address, recipients address, etc.) from the retrieved data (see Fig. 9c,
col. 12, lines 13-15), identify (S210) the mail piece as requiring one of the plurality of
actions identified by the action identifier (divert for specific further processing, see Fig.
9c, col. 12, lines 18-21, 49-53, 58-61, col. 13, lines 13-17, col. 12, lines 54, col. 13, lines
29-31) from the retrieved data, if the mail piece image characteristics (address
components) present in the retrieved data substantially match the one of the plurality of
predetermined profiles / senders or recipients address from the retrieved data.

As to claim 6, the claim is the corresponding system claim to claim 11. The
discussions are addressed with regard to claim 11.

Re Claims 8 and 13 respectively: Ryan Jr. further discloses a network interface and a
server configured to communicate with a network (web server 27 communicates with
investigation entity, see Fig. 9a, col. 13, lines 60-67).

Re Claims 9 and 14 respectively: Ryan Jr. further discloses a remote server (27)
configured to receive and send data (see Fig. 9a, col. 13, lines 60-67).

Re Claim 15: Ryan Jr. further discloses each of the plurality of predetermined profiles
include selected combinations of the plurality of profile image characteristics selected

from addressee, markings, address style (see col. 5, lines 50-57, the senders address

profile or recipient address profile include address information, different markings such

as zip code numbering, and the address style such as name, street, county, state, and

zip code).

Re Claim 18: Ryan Jr. further discloses another memory (28a) for storing the data for

access by a process executed by the remote server, said memory including a database

(28a) (see Fig. 9a, col. 13, lines 60-67).

Re Claim 28: Ryan Jr. further discloses said database (28a) is downloaded from the

network (27) (see Fig. 9a, a profile database 28a may be received or inherently

downloaded from the network or web server 27).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

11.   Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 19-27, and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. in view of Sansone (US 2002/0141613 A1, as

applied in previous Office Action). The teachings of Ryan have been discussed above.

Re Claim 1: Ryan Jr. discloses a method for identifying mail pieces for special processing based upon a plurality of predetermined profiles (sender address, recipient address, etc.), the method comprising the steps of a) selecting a plurality of profile image characteristics (address components – name, street, county, state, and zip code) for each one of the plurality of predetermined profiles (sender address, recipient address, etc.); b) storing the plurality of predetermined profiles (22 and 26), each of the predetermined profiles having values for the plurality of selected profile image characteristics (address components) (see Fig. 9a, col. 4, lines 46-48, col. 5, lines 20-65, col. 9, lines 26-29); c) obtaining mail piece image characteristics (senders or recipients address components) associated with an image of a mail piece (14) (see Fig. 9a, col. 4, lines 40-42, col. 5, lines 11-18); d) retrieving one of the plurality of predetermined profiles that has not yet been used in a comparison (see Fig. 9a, Computer system 100 retrieves data from the address database 22 or 26, col. 4, lines 46-48, col. 9, lines 25-32, col. 10, lines 63-68, col. 12, lines 13-15, could check the senders address or recipients address first); e) comparing (S208) the mail piece image characteristics to the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles (see Fig. 9c, col. 12, lines 13-15, the address profile is compared to the different image characteristics such as the address components); f) identifying the mail piece for special processing / divert for further processing (S210) (see Fig. 9c, col. 12, lines 18-21, 49-53, 58-61), if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles / senders or recipients address substantially matches the mail piece image characteristics (address components).

However, Ryan Jr. fails to specifically suggest g) repeating steps d) through f) for another one of the plurality of predetermined profiles, if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles does not substantially match the mail piece image characteristics.

Sansone discloses g) repeating steps d) through f) for another one of the plurality of predetermined profiles (either senders address 212 or recipients address 210 depending on what was initially done), if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles does not substantially match the mail piece image characteristics (address components) (see Fig. 7, paragraph [0041], lines 1-21, uses predetermined profiles that have not yet been used in a comparison when repeating the steps d through f).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify (further specify) Ryan Jr.'s method and system using Sansone's teachings by including the specific recitation that steps d) through f) are repeated for a different predetermined profile in order to specifically go through the different profiles one at a time to exhaustively make sure that there is no visual threat indicator (see Sansone, paragraph [0041], lines 1-21).

As to claim 22, the claim is the corresponding system claim to claims 1 and 11. The discussions are addressed with regard to claims 1 and 11. In regards to the two extra limitations presented in claim 22, Ryan Jr. discloses a transport sub-system (16) configured to transport a mail item (see Fig. 9a, col. 4, line 42, col. 11, liens 33-35), and

an imaging sub-system (14) configured to obtain an image of the mail piece (see Fig.

9a, lines 41-42, col. 5, lines 11-18).

Re Claims 7 and 12 respectively: Ryan Jr. further discloses to retrieve further data

corresponding to another predetermined profile (either senders address or recipients

address depending on what was initially done) from the plurality of predetermined

profiles from the database (see Fig. 9a, Computer system 100 retrieves data from the

address database 22 or 26, col. 4, lines 46-48, col. 9, lines 25-32, col. 10, lines 63-68,

col. 12, lines 13-15), compare (S208) the mail piece image characteristics (address

components) for the image of the mail piece to the values for one of the plurality of

predetermined profiles from the retrieved further data (see Fig. 9c, col. 12, lines 13-15),

and identify (S210) the mail piece as requiring one of the plurality of actions identified by

the action identifier / [divert for further processing] divert to sanitization/processing area

(see col. 13, lines 13-17), or divert to a video coding terminal, or divert to an audio

recognition (see col. 12, lines 54, col. 13, lines 29-31) from the retrieved further data

(see Fig. 9c, col. 12, lines 18-21, 49-53, 58-61, col. 13, lines 13-17, col. 12, lines 54, col.

13, lines 29-31), if the values for one of the plurality of predetermined profiles (senders

address, recipients address, etc.) from the retrieved data substantially matches the mail

piece image characteristics (address components) for the image of the mail piece.

However, Ryan Jr. fails to specifically suggest (Ryan silently suggests) retrieving

another predetermined profile to redo the comparison and identification by the action

identifier.

Sansone discloses retrieving another predetermined profile (either senders address 212 or recipients address 210 depending on what was initially done) to redo the comparison and identification as discussed for claims 1 and 22 above (see Fig. 7, paragraph [0041], lines 1-21, uses predetermined profiles that have not yet been used in a comparison when repeating the steps d) through f) as discussed in claims 1 and 22 above).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify (further specify) Ryan Jr.'s method and system using Sansone's teachings by including the specific recitation that steps d) through f) are repeated for a different predetermined profile in order to specifically go through the different predetermined profiles one at a time to exhaustively make sure that there is no visual threat indicator (see Sansone, paragraph [0041], lines 1-21).

Re Claim 23 [as best understood by the Examiner]: The discussions are addressed with respect to claims 7 and 12.

Re Claim 3: Although Ryan Jr. is silent in disclosing comparing the mail piece image characteristics to the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles occurs during real-time processing, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have such a feature because in order to have an efficient and reliable processing mail system, it has to be real-time processing (see col. 1, lines 42-45).

As to claims 5, 10, and 24 respectively, the discussions are addressed with respect to claim 15.

As to claim 25, the discussions are addressed with respect to claims 8 and 13.

As to claim 26, the discussions are addressed with respect to claims 9 and 14.

Re Claim 29: Ryan Jr. further discloses modifying a result record / video coded sent mailpiece associated with the image of the mal piece if the mail piece is flagged / diverted for the special processing / suspect determination; transmitting / video coding terminal the image to a remote site / terminal for manual image inspection / operator makes final determination according to the result record / video coded sent mailpiece; and classifying the mail piece / tag to the malpiece ID code as suspect based on the manual image inspection (see col. 13, lines 29-49).

Re Claim 30 [as best understood by the Examiner]: Sansone further discloses steps of g) archiving the mail image having archived mail piece image characteristics (address components); h) updating the plurality of predetermined profiles (senders address, recipient address, etc.) by creating at least one new predetermined profile having a plurality of selected new profile image characteristics (address with specific handwriting) (see page 5, paragraph [0041], lines 18-21, Sansone discloses having handwriting previously used on mail containing life harming materials which means that handwritings are archived if they end up having suspect materials and therefore the profiles are updated since apparently there is a need to compare handwritings to

previously used handwritings which are associated with mail containing life harming

materials, Sansone discloses that two different items such as address and handwriting

may be used as a single profile for matching two threat indicators simultaneously in

paragraph [0042] lines 1-7); i) retrieving one of the new predetermined profiles (senders

address, recipients address) that has not yet been used in the comparison (see Fig. 7,

paragraph [0041]); j) comparing the archived mail piece image characteristics (address

components with handwritten specifications) to the at least one new predetermined

profile (see Fig. 7, paragraph [0041], the comparison between the archived suspect

handwriting could be compared to the new predetermined profile); l) identifying the

archived mail piece for the special processing / suspect, if the new predetermined

profile substantially matches the archived mail piece image characteristics (see Fig. 7,

paragraph [0041], a comparison is made between the archived suspect handwriting of

address with the new profile and a divert for further suspect processing is determined);

and m) repeating steps (i) through (l) for another one of the new predetermined profiles

(either senders address 212 or recipients address 210 depending on what was initially

done), if the new predetermined profile does not substantially match the archived mail

piece image characteristics (see Fig. 7, paragraph [0041], different profiles are

compared if one profile doesn't match).

Re Claims 19-21, and 27 respectively: Ryan Jr. further discloses comparing the mail

piece image characteristics (address components) with a subset of the plurality of the

predetermined profiles (either senders address or recipients address) simultaneously

(S210, col. 12, lines 49-53), and wherein said computer readable code is further

configured to identify the mail piece for special processing / divert if there is a match

from any one of the plurality of the predetermined profiles (senders address or

recipients address, col. 12, lines 58-61).

If however Ryan did not teach this simultaneous comparison, Sansone discloses

that different [two different] items in the mail piece may be compared with the

predetermined profile (senders or recipients address with specific handwriting)

simultaneously to match two threat indicators (see paragraph [0042], lines 1-7, the two

image characteristics as discussed in paragraph [0042] could be the address and the

handwriting and if these two characteristics match the predetermined profile, the mail is

diverted because of suspicion of a threat).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to modify (further specify) Ryan Jr.'s method and system

using Sansone's teachings by including the specific recitation of comparing

simultaneously different image characteristics with the subset of profiles in order to

specifically go through the different predetermined profiles exhaustively to make sure

that there is no threat indicator (see Sansone, paragraph [0041], lines 1-21, paragraph

[0042], lines 1-7).

12.   Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr.

as modified by Sansone as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lopez (US

2002/0029202 A1, as applied in previous Office Action). The teachings of Ryan Jr. as modified by Sansone have been discussed above.

However, Ryan Jr. as modified by Sansone fails to disclose or fairly suggest that the comparison occurs during an offline process.

Lopez discloses the step of comparing the mail piece image characteristics to the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles occurs during offline processing (506, 509, and 511) (see Figure 5, paragraph [0057], attempts to locate the return address for the diverted mail piece).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Ryan Jr.'s method, as modified by Sansone, using Lopez's teachings by including the ability to do comparisons during offline processing in order enhance performance and time efficiency because if it is a mail piece that needs to be returned to the sender, it does not need immediate attention and could be sorted for processing during offline processing.

13.   Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. as applied to claims 11 and 13-14 above, in view of Bloomfield (US 6,025,931, as applied in previous Office Action). The teachings of Ryan Jr. have been discussed above.

However, Ryan Jr. fails to disclose or fairly suggest at least one third memory having computer readable code capable of causing the at least one processor to retrieve the data, compare, and identify if the action is required.

Bloomfield discloses at least one third memory / RAM (206) (see Fig. 3, col. 7,

55-57, col. 8, lines 4-16) having computer readable code configured to cause the at

least one processor / CPU (206) (see Fig. 3, col. 8, lines 4-16) to retrieve the data for

one of the plurality of predetermined profiles (senders address and recipient address for

<u>further data</u>) from the database (120, 116, and 200) (see Fig. 1, Fig. 3, col. 7, lines 49-

59, have a database of the different e-mail addresses that exist), compare the mail

piece image characteristics (address components) for the image of the mail piece (283)

to the values for one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved data

(see Fig. 5, the email address is compared to the database of email addresses, col. 7,

lines 49-59), identify the mail piece as requiring one of the plurality of actions identified

by the action identifier from the retrieved data (see col. 7, lines 49-59, return the email

back to the sender if the email address for the intended recipient doesn't exist, if it does,

email it to the appropriate place), if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles

from the retrieved data substantially matches the mail piece image characteristics from

the retrieved data or for the image of the mail piece. In general, Bloomfield integrates a

Fax to an internet server where the fax is able to scan the letter for the email address

which is to be sent (see abstract), compares the email address to the list of emails that

exist, and route it appropriately, if the email address doesn't exist, return the email to

the sender. This could easily be incorporated to the web server component of Ryan

Jr.'s system.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to modify Ryan Jr.'s system using Bloomfield's teachings

by including a third memory as part of the remote server in order to include the capability of sending emails from the use of hard copy documents.
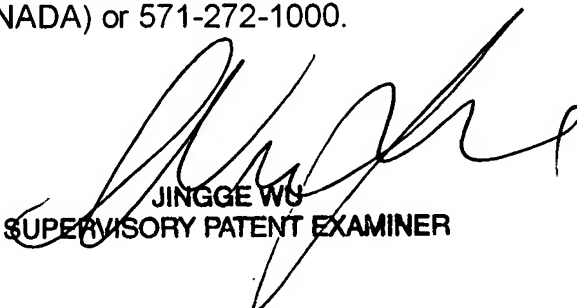
Conclusion

14.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bernard Krasnic whose telephone number is (571) 270-1357. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:00am-4:00pm and every other Friday 8:00am-3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu can be reached on (571) 272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Bernard Krasnic
August 20, 2007

JINGGE WU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER